

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007993

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD CH US

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR SALES

REF: HONG KONG 388, HONG KONG A-330, 12/21/73 (NOTAL)

1. THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS TO THE PRC BY GE WAS RAISED WITH USAEC IN AUGUST 1973. AEC IN TURN RAISED QUESTION WITH OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES IN USG RESULTING IN REVIEW BY INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE. IT IS NOW ANTICIPATED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE REQUIRED. GE HAS BEEN KEPT FULLY AND CURRENTLY INFORMED OF STATUS OF SITUATION. GE ALSO HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO TRANSMITTAL TO THE
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PRC OF UNCLASSIFIED (PUBLISHED) INFORMATION, OR SALES

BROCHURES.

2. GE IS THE ONLY US FIRM WHICH HAS INFORMED USAEC IT WISHES TO MAKE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO PRC. TWO OTHER COMPANIES, GULF AND BABCOCK AND WILCOX, HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE REACTOR SALE TO PRC. IF WESTINGHOUSE, OR ANY US FIRM, WISHES TO SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO PRC FOR SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, THEY MUST FIRST APPLY TO USAEC FOR USG APPROVAL PURSUANT TO PART 110 CFR IN ADVANCE OF SUCH ACTIVITY.

3. POSSIBLE SALES OF POWER REACTORS TO HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANIES POSE DIFFERENT CONSIDERATIONS (I.E., OWNERSHIP OF PLANT, LOCATION, POTENTIAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION BY PRC NATIONALS AND FRACTION OF OUTPUT THAT WOULD GO TO PRC) THAN SALE TO COUNTRY SUBJECT TO COCOM REGULATIONS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, PROPOSED SALES TO HONG KONG COULD BE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL AEC EXPORT LICENSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HAVE TO CONCLUDE NECESSARY INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UK PERMITTING EXPORT OF REACTOR AND FUEL.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONGEN'S ASSESSMENT OF HKG'S VIEWS TOWARD ANY JOINT VENTURE INVOLVING HK POWER COMPANIES AND THE PRC EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. IT WOULD APPEAR TO US MORE FEASIBLE FROM HKG POINT OF VIEW TO LOCATE NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR IN HONG KONG TERRITORY WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SELLING ANY SURPLUS POWER TO PRC. WOULD APPRECIATE CONGEN'S VIEWS. (YOU SHOULD NOT/NOT APPROACH HKG ON THESE QUESTIONS.)
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